

## **God's Word – and Inviolability (#14)**

**Text : I Kings 13 : 1-34**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

**A. Over this past quarter we've learned many things about the scriptures.**

1. Their source ... God.
2. Their character ... verbally inspired , inerrant , authoritative
3. Their use :
  - a. Communicate God to man
  - b. Enable the Christian to mature
  - c. Guide the Christian in the paths of righteousness
4. Their ability to enable one to discern the will of God in all situations.

**B. With this lesson we will observe the “inviolability” of the scriptures.**

1. Dictionary definition : *incapable of being violated; incorruptible; unassailable*
2. As the words of God, the scriptures carry the full authority of God.
3. The words of the sovereign ruler communicate His sovereignty.

**C. Are text is a source of much confusion to those who over-exegete it.**

1. God chose the format of the scriptures.
2. Their format makes them eternally relevant without alteration or update.

**D. The plan is to observe some lessons as we read through the chapter and then make some applications.**

\* **Please open your bible and follow along.**

### **I. The context of this chapter is essential to understanding.**

**A. Jeroboam was given a place of power by King Solomon.**

1. **I Kings 11: 26 ff**
2. His rise was due to his ability, not his connections or parentage.
3. He was in charge of all forced labor in Ephraim and Manasseh.

**B. The prophet Ahijah prophesied that God would make Jeroboam a king.**

1. The prophet tore his new robe into 12 pieces and gave Jeroboam 10 pieces.
2. This was to indicate that Jeroboam would be given rule over 10 tribes of Israel.
3. The prophet warned Jeroboam that he would rule only as long as he obeyed God.

**C. When Solomon learned of this, he sought to kill Jeroboam.**

1. Jeroboam fled to Egypt to escape Solomon.
2. He stayed there until Solomon died and then returned. ( cf - *parents of Jesus* )

**D. When Solomon died, the people appealed to his heir ( *Rehoboam* ) for tax relief.**

1. Rehoboam listened to the advice of the young men and refused their request.
2. He chose to be a king to be served by his people rather than one to serve them.

**E. When Rehoboam sent out his tax collector ( *Adoram* ) all Israel stoned him.**

1. The people of the north called Jeroboam to rule over them.
2. Rehoboam assembled an army to put down the rebellion, but God sent a prophet who forbade them to fight.
3. At that point the Kingdom was irrevocably divided.

**F. As Jeroboam began to develop the country and to consolidate his reign, he began to see the religious requirements as a threat.**

1. The people were required to go to Jerusalem to make sacrifices in the temple.
  - a. A minimum of three feast days were required.
  - b. New born sons had to be presented to the priests, etc.
2. Jeroboam built golden calves for the people to worship. ( *The gods of Egypt* )
  - a. He built two temples for them to worship the idols ... Dan and Bethel.
  - b. He appointed a feast day a month after the Jewish feast to God.
3. Dan was in the north, but Bethel was only 6 miles from the border with Judah.

**II. The theme of the chapter is “ the word of God” and “the man of God.”****A. The key phrases make the theme obvious.**

1. The Phrase “**word of the Lord**” is used 9 times in this one chapter.
2. The Phrase “**the man of God**” is used 13 times in this one chapter.

**B. God sends a faithful prophet ( *preacher* ) into their dedication ceremony.**

1. The unnamed prophet from Judah follows his instructions courageously.
2. He resists the temptation from the king.
3. The lying prophet is able to deceive him.

**C. The “man of God” loses his life as a result of his transgression.**

1. He is killed by a lion under obviously miraculous circumstances.
2. He is buried with honor by the one who lead him astray.

**III. Lessons learned from this story.****A. God's word must be obeyed both in spirit and in letter.**

1. Only the obedient will be saved.
  - a. **Matt. 7: 21-23**
  - b. **Heb. 5:9-** And having been made perfect,  
He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,
2. God looks at the heart, not just the external compliance.
  - a. In **Matthew 15: 8** Jesus quotes **Isaiah 29: 13**  
-Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*.
  - b. **Col. 3:16-** Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
  - c. **Heb. 4: 12-** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ( **Rom. 6: 17-18** .. *must obey from heart* )

**B. Every word must be verified from the word of God. ( *Discernment is essential.* )**

1. The young prophet knew what he had been told by God.
  - a. God gave him a sign to prove the message was from God.
  - b. The altar was destroyed without human hands.
2. The old prophet was able to convince the young prophet when the king could not.
  - a. The old prophet lied to accomplish a cultural value ... hospitality.
  - b. He obviously did not take the word of God seriously.

3. The young prophet should have confirmed that what the old prophet said was true.
  - a. God does not contradict Himself. (*He would not tell conflicting things to prophets.*)  
**I Cor. 14: 31-33** For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; <sup>32</sup> and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; <sup>33</sup> for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
  - b. The man of God must verify every teaching.  
**I John 4: 1-** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
  - c. The Bereans were praised as being noble because they verified every teaching.  
**Acts 17:11-** Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

**C. ONLY the word of God can be trusted ... not angels ... not miracles.**

1. Angels cannot be trusted.
  - a. They do not have the authority to overrule the scriptures.  
**Gal. 1:8 -** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!
  - b. Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light.  
**II Cor. 11: 14-15** No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.
2. Satan works lying sign.  
**II Thes. 2: 9-** .. with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

**D. No past obedience, zeal or position can guarantee present or future victory.**

1. We have a contract with an exterminator because the pests keep coming back. (*sin*)
2. Satan never ceases to seek to ravage the souls of man.
  - a. **I Cor. 10: 12-** Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.
  - b. **I Pet. 5: 8 -** Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (**Gen 4: 7**)
  - c. **Rev. 2:10 -** Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

**CONCLUSION :**

- A. The word of God is the only reliable GPS to insure we are on Heaven's course.
- B. It is only the truth of God's word that will keep us free from sin. **Jn. 8:32, 17:17**

## Lesson Text

### I Kings 13

**1** Now behold, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense. **2** He cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD, 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.'" **3** Then he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken, 'Behold, the altar shall be split apart and the ashes which are on it shall be poured out.'" **4** Now when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar in Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Seize him." But his hand which he stretched out against him dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself. **5** The altar also was split apart and the ashes were poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. **6** The king said to the man of God, "Please entreat the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and it became as it was before. **7** Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward." **8** But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water in this place. **9** "For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall eat no bread, nor drink water, nor return by the way which you came.'" **10** So he went another way and did not return by the way which he came to Bethel.

**11** Now an old prophet was living in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the deeds which the man of God had done that day in Bethel; the words which he had spoken to the king, these also they related to their father. **12** Their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" Now his sons had seen the way which the man of God who came from Judah had gone. **13** Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him and he rode away on it. **14** So he went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak; and he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am." **15** Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread." **16** He said, "I cannot return with you, nor go with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. **17** "For a command came to me by the word of the LORD, 'You shall eat no bread, nor drink water there; do not return by going the way which you came.'" **18** He said to him, "I also am a prophet like you, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" *But* he lied to him. **19** So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house and drank water.

**20** Now it came about, as they were sitting down at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back; **21** and he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have disobeyed the command of the LORD, and have not observed the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you, **22** but have returned and eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which He said to you, 'Eat no bread and drink no water'; your body shall not come to the grave of your

fathers.' ” **23** It came about after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, for the prophet whom he had brought back. **24** Now when he had gone, a lion met him on the way and killed him, and his body was thrown on the road, with the donkey standing beside it; the lion also was standing beside the body. **25** And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown on the road, and the lion standing beside the body; so they came and told *it* in the city where the old prophet lived.

**26** Now when the prophet who brought him back from the way heard *it*, he said, “It is the man of God, who disobeyed the command of the LORD; therefore the LORD has given him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to him.” **27** Then he spoke to his sons, saying, “Saddle the donkey for me.” And they saddled *it*. **28** He went and found his body thrown on the road with the donkey and the lion standing beside the body; the lion had not eaten the body nor torn the donkey. **29** So the prophet took up the body of the man of God and laid it on the donkey and brought it back, and he came to the city of the old prophet to mourn and to bury him. **30** He laid his body in his own grave, and they mourned over him, *saying*, “Alas, my brother!” **31** After he had buried him, he spoke to his sons, saying, “When I die, bury me in the grave in which the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. **32** Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.

**33** Then he went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised in his own heart; and he instituted a feast for the sons of Israel and went up to the altar to burn incense. **34** This event became sin to the house of Jeroboam, even to blot *it* out and destroy *it* from off the face of the earth.